

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
SSM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 INR-07 INRE-00 PA-02 SP-02  
AID-05 ACDA-10 L-03 PM-05 EB-08 /112 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. COLLUMS  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----008961 230010Z /65

O 222216Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
DOD  
CIA  
USIA  
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 22

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 22, 1977.  
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT FRENCH DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS  
IN WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS HAVING BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE EEC  
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PEOPLE URGING JOINT ACTION TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR THE  
SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK?

A. I HAVE NOT.

Q. HAVE NOT. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE U.N., KURT WALDHEIM, GOING AROUND CONDEMNING ISRAEL  
FOR THE SETTLEMENTS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY THOUGHTS.

Q. DO YOU THINK HE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING, AS THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF A PEACEKEEPING ORGANIZATION?

A. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS, AS FAR

AS I KNOW, FREE TO SAY WHAT HE CHOOSES. I DON'T HAVE ANY  
COMMENT ON WHAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS REPORTED TO HAVE  
SAID.

Q. I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE PLO BOMBING  
IN ISRAEL WHICH I ASKED ABOUT A COUPLE OF TIMES LAST  
WEEK.

A. I THINK YOU WERE ANSWERED A COUPLE OF TIMES LAST WEEK.

Q. NO. THE ANSWER WAS, WHEN WE GET AN INDEPENDENT ASSESS-

MENT, WHY, WE WILL LET YOU KNOW. I HAVE BEEN WAITING NOW,  
AND THIS IS NOW FIVE DAYS. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET  
AN ASSESSMENT?

A. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO GET SUCH  
AN ASSESSMENT OR NOT. I THINK HODDING ANSWERED YOU AS  
FULLY AS HE COULD ON THAT THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.

Q. THE QUESTION WAS TAKEN LAST WEEK AS TO WHETHER  
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ISRAEL WAS USING U.S. WEAPONS IN SUPPORT OF THE  
CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. IN ANSWER, HAS ANYTHING  
EVER BEEN RECEIVED ON THAT?

A. TO THE QUESTION "ARE THEY USING U.S.-SUPPLIED  
MATERIAL," THE ANSWER IS YES. ISRAEL INFORMED US BUT DID  
NOT CONSULT US ABOUT ITS USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT.

Q. IS THAT USE OF U.S. WEAPONS LEGAL?

A. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SUCH USE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT BY  
ISRAEL DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY U.S. LAW OR AGREEMENT WITH  
ISRAEL.

Q. CAN YOU BE ANY MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT TYPE OF  
EQUIPMENT IS INVOLVED?

A. I CANNOT BE. I AM JUST NOT INFORMED AS TO WHAT IS  
INVOLVED.

Q. CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT USE IT IS BEING  
PUT, THAT YOU CONCLUDED THERE IS NO VIOLATION OF THE LAW?

A. NO, I AM NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q. CAN YOU FIND OUT WHETHER THEY ARE TRANSFERRING WEAPONS

TO THE CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

Q. WOULDN'T THAT BE A VIOLATION IF THEY ACTUALLY GAVE  
THEM THE WEAPONS FROM ISRAEL?

A. WELL, LET ME ANSWER YOU ON THAT. THE QUESTION, I THINK,  
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IS A QUESTION THAT HODDING TOOK LAST WEEK. THAT IS WHAT  
YOU ARE NOW ASKING ME: "HAS ISRAEL TRANSFERRED ANY U.S.  
EQUIPMENT TO CHRISTIAN FORCES IN LEBANON, AND WOULD THAT  
BE A VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW OR AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL."

THE ANSWER TO THAT IS THAT BY AGREEMENT, ISRAEL CANNOT TRANSFER ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY PURCHASED FROM THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT RECEIVING PERMISSION FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

ISRAEL HAS ASSURED US THAT IT HAS NOT TRANSFERRED TO ANY PARTY IN THE LEBANESE CONFLICT ANY U.S. ORIGIN EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD FALL UNDER SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

Q. HAVE THEY ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO TRANSFER ARMS?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THEY HAVE.

Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT AWARE OF REPORTS OF M-16 RIFLES OF U.S. MANUFACTURE BEING CAPTURED BY PALESTINIAN COMMANDOES AND BURNED-OUT TANKS OF APPARENT U.S. DESIGN BEING SEIZED OR SEEN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE ARE AWARE OF THAT OR NOT. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL STATEMENT. YOU SAID ISRAEL HAS INFORMED US BUT DID NOT CONSULT WITH US OF ITS USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT. WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, WHAT DID ISRAEL INFORM THE UNITED STATES OF--THAT IT WAS USED, WHERE, FOR WHAT PURPOSE, TO WHAT EXTENT?

A. LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU A DECENT ANSWER TO THAT. I DON'T HAVE IT.

Q- AT WHAT TIME? ALL YOU ARE TELLING US HERE IS THAT ISRAEL HAS GIVEN THE UNITED STATES SOME INFORMATION ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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SOME USE OF ITS EQUIPMENT IN LEBANON, AND THAT IS A VERY -- .

A. THAT THEY HAVE--RIGHT. THEY HAVE INFORMED US ABOUT THEIR USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT. I AM NOT SURE I CAN GET YOU MORE THAN THAT, BUT I WILL TRY.

Q. YOU ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WHAT KINDS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, DO YOU KNOW?

A. I DON'T. I DON'T. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET IT FOR YOU.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THEY INFORMED YOU AFTER THEY STARTED USING SUCH EQUIPMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW FOR A FACT WHEN THEY INFORMED US, WHETHER BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER.

Q. WAS ISRAEL BARRED FROM GOING TO THIS LAGOS CONFERENCE WHERE MR. YOUNG IS?

A. I REALLY DON'T KNOW. BY WHOM? BY THE AUTHORITIES CONDUCTING THE CONFERENCE? I THINK THAT IS A UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE, ISN'T IT?

Q. YES.

A. I REALLY DON'T KNOW. I SUGGEST YOU WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH WHOEVER IS RUNNING THAT CONFERENCE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE THIS MORNING?

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A. WHICH SAYS WHAT?

Q. WHICH SAYS THAT ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE AN OPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

A. IT IS A SPECULATIVE PIECE ON WHICH I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER YOU.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CLARIFICATION TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ON TRANSFERS TO THIRD PARTIES? I MEAN, DOES IT STATE THAT THE ARMS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO A GOVERNMENT OR TO CIVILIANS OR TO A FACTION?

A. I DON'T KNOW FOR A FACT BUT I ASSUME THAT IT COVERS THE TRANSFER TO ANY THIRD ENTITY OF ANY KIND, SIZE, SHAPE OR DESCRIPTION OF U.S. EQUIPMENT. BUT I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT THE TEXT OF IT TO BE CERTAIN OF THAT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE ISRAELIS INFORMED THE UNITED STATES OF THIS?

A. NO. I SAID, IN ANSWER TO AN EARLIER QUESTION, THAT I DON'T. PERHAPS I CAN FIND THAT OUT FOR YOU TOO, BUT I MAKE NO PROMISES.

Q. OR ALSO, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD TOO THAT: IF IT IS STILL USING SUCH EQUIPMENT IN LEBANON.

Q. LAST SATURDAY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA, JAMES KIRK MET WITH KHALED FAHUM, THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL SPOKESMAN, OR PRESIDENT, IN SYRIA. DOES THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THAT, OR DOES IT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT?

A. OH, I'M SORRY. I DON'T HAVE ANY AWARENESS OF THAT  
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AT ALL, AND I DON'T KNOW THAT WE DO.

Q. COMING BACK TO THIS BUSINESS OF WEAPONS IN LEBANON:  
WHO IS SUPPLYING THE KILLERS IN THE PLO ORGANIZATION WITH  
WEAPONS?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WELL, THEY ARE USING SOVIET EQUIPMENT. AND DO WE  
COUNTENANCE GIVING ECONOMIC AID TO COUNTRIES LIKE EGYPT  
AND SYRIA, WHICH IN TURN PROBABLY ARE SUPPLYING THE PLO  
TERRORISTS WITH WEAPONS?

A. OUR AID TO COUNTRIES LIKE EGYPT AND SYRIA IS BASED  
ON A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS, AS I THINK YOU WELL KNOW,  
AND DOES NOT TURN ON THE SOLE QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY--  
AS YOU PUT IT "PROBABLY ARE SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO THE  
PLO."

Q. WELL WHAT IS OUR INFORMATION AS TO WHO SUPPLIES  
THE TERRORISTS WITH WEAPONS IN LEBANON? THEY HAVE TANKS,  
THEY HAVE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, THEY HAVE MISSILES. WHO  
SUPPLIES THEM? WHO PAYS FOR THEM?

A. I CAN'T ANSWER YOU WITHOUT LOOKING IT UP. I MIGHT  
TRY TO GET YOU AN ANSWER TO THAT. I DON'T KNOW THAT I  
CAN.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT OBJECT TO THE ISRAELIS  
SUPPLYING M-14 RIFLES SO THAT THE CHRISTIANS CAN DEFEND  
THEMSELVES IN LEBANON?

A. WELL IF IT WERE A FACT THAT--DEMONSTRABLY A FACT--  
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THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO THE  
CHRISTIANS, I THINK WE WOULD HAVE AN OBJECTION, BUT I  
JUST FINISHED SAYING A LITTLE WHILE AGO --

Q. WHY? COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHY?

A. BECAUSE IT VIOLATES PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENTS THE  
ISRAELIS HAVE WITH US, FOR ONE THING.

Q. WELL, THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOTIFIED US. SINCE THEY  
HAVE NOTIFIED US, ARE WE --

A. NO, YOU ARE CONFUSING TWO THINGS. YOU ARE CONFUSING THEIR OWN USE OF U.S. SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT WITH THE TRANSFER TO OTHER PEOPLE OF U.S. SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT.

Q. NO, I AM NOT CONFUSING IT. I HAVE JUST SAID THAT I BELIEVE THAT EARLIER IN THIS BRIEFING YOU CONFIRMED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOTIFIED US THAT THEY HAVE TRANSFERRED THESE WEAPONS.

A. NO, I SAID THAT THEY HAVE NOTIFIED US THAT THEY WERE USING THEM, THEMSELVES.

Q. WHY DO WE OBJECT TO THE ISRAELIS TRANSFERRING WEAPONS TO A GROUP THAT IS TRYING TO DEFEND ITSELF--A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS? WHY?

A. FIRST OF ALL AS I SAY, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE SUCH A TRANSFER. THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY HAVE NOT.

Q. WHY DO WE OBJECT?

A. BECAUSE PROVISIONS OF OUR AGREEMENTS WITH MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES, IF NOT ALL COUNTRIES, ARE THAT THEY ARE NOT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION.

Q. AND IF THE ISRAELIS ASK FOR PERMISSION, WOULD WE DENY IT?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO TELL YOU WHAT WE WOULD DO IN A CASE LIKE THAT. WHEN THE QUESTION COMES UP PERHAPS WE CAN ANSWER IT.

Q. AND YOU REALLY SUSPECT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO TRANSFER OF WEAPONS AT ALL?

A. I SAID WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN. AND WE HAVE ISRAELI ASSURANCE THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN.

Q. IF THE ISRAELIS TRANSFERRED THEIR WEAPONS THAT ARE NOT OF U.S. ORIGIN TO THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON, WOULD THAT BE A VIOLATION OF ANY AGREEMENT?

A. WELL I CAN HARDLY SEE WHERE THERE WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH US SINCE IT WOULDN'T BE OUR WEAPONS THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED, OR OUR EQUIPMENT.

2. THE FOLLOWING ANSWER WAS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 17:

Q. IS ISRAEL USING U.S.-SUPPLIED MATERIEL IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. YES.

--ISRAEL HAS INFORMED US, BUT NOT CONSULTED US, ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SUCH USE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY U.S. LAW OR AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

3. QUESTIONS TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING, AUGUST 22:

Q. WHEN DID THE ISRAELIS INFORM US THEY WERE USING U.S.-SUPPLIED WEAPONS IN SOUTH LEBANON? DID THEY TELL US THE TYPE OF WEAPONS AND HOW THEY WERE BEING USED? HAVE THEY TOLD US THEY ARE STILL USING U.S. EQUIPMENT THERE?

A. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. WHO SUPPLIES WEAPONS TO PALESTINIAN FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON?

A. FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, THE PALESTINIAN GROUPS HAVE ACQUIRED THEIR ARMAMENTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES, BOTH AS GIFTS AND THROUGH PURCHASES. MOST OF THEIR WEAPONRY IS OF SOVIET OR EASTERN EUROPEAN MANUFACTURE.

Q. WHEN DID THE ISRAELIS INFORM US THEY WERE USING U.S.-SUPPLIED WEAPONS IN SOUTH LEBANON? DID THEY TELL US

THE TYPE OF WEAPONS AND HOW THEY WERE BEING USED? HAVE THEY TOLD US THEY ARE STILL USING U.S. EQUIPMENT THERE?

A. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE199750  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770303-0352  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197708117/baaaetot.tel  
**Line Count:** 426  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 0fe95751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 8  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1446119  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 22  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN  
**To:** AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0fe95751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009